

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Abidjan Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

September 1988

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1.

C/Ops

10 Nov

B

2.

3.

C/E&PS

11/10

L

4.

~~A~~ D/FBIS

14 Nov

B

5.

~~D/FBIS~~

6.

7.

PO/RA

11/14 on

8.

SA/CD

11/14

Q

9.

10.

SO

C/AS

B

11.

BERS

C/B&F/AS

B

12.

13.

14.

C/AG

21/11

m

15.

Exec. Reg.

FBIS-2618-88
5 October 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Abidjan Bureau--September 1988

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The ongoing Quadripartite Talks in Brazzaville, Congo, were the major focus of interest in Abidjan Bureau's coverage area again this month. In the absence of a monitorable Congolese source, the bureau filed secondary source reports on the sixth and seventh rounds of these U.S.-sponsored talks. Representatives from South Africa, Angola, and Cuba reaffirmed their commitment to implementing UN Resolution 435 on independence for Namibia, but to date they have failed to achieve agreement on a schedule for withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

2. In response to a query sent to the U.S. Embassy in Kinshasa, the bureau learned that Kinshasa AZAP press agency has changed its frequency. On its new frequency, AZAP, the bureau's only monitorable Zairian source, broadcasts at irregular times and its monitorability is poor.

3. The bureau filed several reports on a summit meeting on the 16th when Presidents Eyadema of Togo, Babangida of Nigeria, Momoh of Sierra Leone, and Doe of Liberia met in Lome. At the end of the meeting, it was announced that Momoh and Doe had reached a reconciliation following tension over Liberia's expulsion in July of some 60 Sierra Leoneans.

B. Lateral Services

1. The U.S. Consulate in Kaduna, Nigeria, sent a message to the bureau asking to sample FBIS items on Nigeria for a 1-week trial period. Following the trial period, the consulate sent a request to FBIS/Liaison to become a permanent consumer of FBIS items on Nigeria.

2. Interest in the Brazzaville talks on Angola remained high at the U.S. Embassy in Abidjan. During each of the sessions, the bureau sent copies of items to Ambassador Kux, DCM Farley, and Ivorian Foreign Minister Ake.

C. Technical

1. The bureau this month suffered frequent power outages and severe power fluctuations, which had several

adverse affects on operations, the most serious being to the communications center computers, which had to be reloaded after every outage. ~~Efforts to remedy this problem yielded dramatic results as new surge protection devices caught fire when placed in the electrical circuit.~~ At month's end the local power situation appears to have improved somewhat, and efforts continue to ensure a stable supply of power to the bureau.

2. The bureau successfully tested the IDD system between Abidjan and London.

II. VISITS

1. U.S. Ambassador to Gabon Warren Clark, who is concurrently ambassador to Sao Tome and Principe, visited the bureau on the 22d. Meeting with the acting bureau chief and the senior editor, Ambassador Clark praised the FBIS product as "extraordinary," citing the acumen of the bureau's editors for selection, and mentioning several instances in which he was the first in Libreville to know about a development, thanks to FBIS.

2. [redacted], the DIA desk officer for most of West Africa, visited the bureau on the 26th, accompanied by Margaret Culbert of DAO. [redacted] said that in some West African countries there are no defense attaches, and FBIS is virtually DIA's only source of information on those countries.

3. London Bureau Associate Editor [redacted] arrived at the bureau TDY on the 9th to help out during a period of short staffing. Frank will remain in Abidjan until 6 October.

4. Bureau Chief [redacted] returned to post 28 September following the Bureau Chiefs Conference and the African Regional Conference at London Bureau.

III. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Junior Editor [redacted] on the 14th became the proud parents of [redacted] was born in Houston, and Jon was present for the delivery on R&R. The family returned to Abidjan on 1 October.

[redacted]
Chief, FBIS Abidjan Bureau

cc: C/MB
C/LD